

nature and his views about the solution of its many problems.

The catalogue is divided into eleven sections covering the main systems of the body, but is far more than a numbered list of the Hunterian specimens. For example, the description of the 'Organ of Sight' fills about 16 pages, containing quotations from Hunter's published work and from the Hunterian MS catalogue. The eye of many creatures from the cuttle-fish to the elephant is discussed, illustrating Hunter's great interest not merely in comparative anatomy but also in the supreme importance of the inter-relationship between structure and function.

As Sir Victor Negus, Chairman of the Hunterian Trustees, has said in his foreword, Miss Dobson's work is a triumph and we look forward to the next part of this series. J G BEARN

### Gynaecology

by Ten Teachers, under the direction of Stanley G Clayton MD MS FRCS FRCOG  
12th ed pp xii+548 illustrated £5  
London: Edward Arnold 1971

'Disease of Women' by Ten Teachers was first published in 1919 and this eleventh edition thus completes more than fifty years' valuable service to students and practitioners. Though the title is now changed to 'Gynaecology', with sections added on contraception and tropical disease and the text brought up to date, the style and layout remain as before. It is the same reliable, detailed, comprehensive account of modern gynaecological practice. Some chapters are done particularly well: the anatomy of the female pelvic organs and congenital malformations; dysfunctional uterine bleeding; amenorrhoea and hormone therapy.

It is, however, difficult to be sure to whom this book is now really directed. Undergraduate students spend less time doing gynaecology, and a glance at recent MB papers shows that there is much more detail here than is necessary to pass the examination with ease. House surgeons should find the book useful, but there is insufficient practical detail about postoperative complications. General practitioners need more guidance about common problems such as difficulties with oral contraception and recurrent monilial vaginitis.

The rather heavy English style is surprising when several contributors have written concise readable popular paperbacks. The illustrations also present a number of problems. Diagrams on dilatation and curettage should really be labelled 'How not to do a D and C'. Most operators usually steady the cervix by resting the volsellum forceps against the symphysis pubis and adopt certain safety factors in holding the dilators to

prevent perforation. Why is there a large diagram on the removal of a Bartholin's cyst, when this operation has almost invariably been replaced by marsupialization? The management of the menopause is a bit old-fashioned. Does testosterone really relieve hot flushes? The term 'carcinoma of the corpus uteri' should be replaced by 'carcinoma of the endometrium'.

DAVID WILLIAMS

### Statistical Methods in Medical Research

by P Armitage

pp xv+504 £5.50

Oxford & Edinburgh: Blackwell Scientific 1971

Medical research workers in the laboratory, the ward or the community are all likely to find Professor Armitage's new book a useful and authoritative guide to a very wide range of statistical methods. Early chapters deal with the usual subjects of probability, sampling and tests of significance and lead up to analysis of variance and multivariate methods. Brief accounts are given of nonparametric methods (on which the author is not very keen), sequential analysis, bioassay and also of some new ideas in epidemiological statistics such as disease clustering. The mathematical exposition is straightforward; proofs are not given and examples, usually from real data, are worked through in detail.

It is perhaps a pity that Professor Armitage has chosen to limit himself so strictly to his title and devoted relatively little space to the principles of medical statistics. It is true that scattered throughout the book the careful reader will find much-needed advice on such matters as the inadequacy of a significance test without an estimate of magnitude. Points like this could well be given more emphasis: now that the computer provides so many instant statistical packages the research worker runs an increasing risk of applying methods he does not understand in solving problems to which they are inappropriate.

M P CURWEN

### Progress in Parasitology

Heath Clark Lectures 1968

by P C C Garnham CMG MD DSC FRCP FRS

pp xi+224 illustrated £3

London: University of London

The Athlone Press 1971

This is a remarkable and fascinating book in which is outlined the quintessence of a great parasitologist's interest in his subject. It is made clear that the word 'progress' in the title is meant to imply a journey through the subject; the progress of the author in his chosen field rather than the subject itself. However, in the case of Professor Garnham, these overlap very considerably.